S. m. practicola. GUYANA. Abary 1♀ (paratype); no locality 1. VENEZUELA. *Dept. Bolivar*: Maripa, Rio Caura 3♂♂, 1♀; Maipures 1♂; Alta Gracia 2♂♂, 1 juv.; La Mariquita 1♀, *Dept. Anzoategui*: Rio Suata 2♀♀.

S. m. practicola × *S. m. monticola*. GUYANA. Upper Takutu Mts. 1??; Annai, Rupununi River 1♂, 1♀; no locality 1. VENEZUELA. *Dept. Bolivar*: Cerro Upuima (= Cerro Upuigma Tepui) 1♀.

S. m. monticola. VENEZUELA. *Dept. Bolivar*: Cerro Roraima 2♂♂, 1♀; Cerro Ayuan-tepui 5♂♂, 1♀; Cerro Paurai Tepui 1♀; Cerro Ptari-tepui 1♂, 2♀♀.

S. m. quinta. SURINAM. Zanderij 8♂♂, 9♀♀, 2 juv.; "Interior" 1♀. BRAZIL. *Estado Amapa*. Type locality 5♂♂, 2♀♀; Lima. Rio Cotinga 2♂♂, 2♀♀; Porto Platon 2♂♂, 1♀.

Acknowledgements

To Graham Cowles and Michael Walters of the British Museum (Natural History); Raymond A. Paynter, Jr, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard; Kenneth C. Parkes, Carnegie Museum of Natural History; Richard C. Banks, National Museum of Natural History; and especially to William H. Phelps, Jr. Coleccion Phelps, Caracas I express my thanks for the loan of specimens. MPW kindly compared the paratype of *S. m. practicola* with the type for me.

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The avian genera *Tesia* and *Urosphena*

by Ben King

Received 23 January 1989

Delacour (1942) defined the genus *Bradypterus* as follows: "Rictal bristles very small and inconspicuous; throat, breast, under tail coverts and lesser wing coverts sometimes plain, sometimes streaked or spotted; tail about equal to wing or longer; bill slight." He defined *Cettia* (differentiating it from *Bradypterus*) as follows: "Rictal bristles well developed and visible; no dark markings on the body plumage. Rectrices soft, never stiff nor with underlying barring, always 10 in number. Thickness of bill variable." He then divided the genus *Cettia* into 3 subgenera. The subgenus *Urosphena* was distinguished by "Tail shorter than wing by

10 mm or more; bill long and narrow; pale supercilium long, broad and conspicuous", whereas the subgenera *Horeites* and *Cettia* had "Tail about equal to wing; pale supercilium shorter and less conspicuous". The subgenus *Horeites* was recognised by "Bill comparatively broad and thick; rectrices of normal width; tail coverts also normal; rictal bristles strong". The subgenus *Cettia* (containing only *C. cetti*) was recognised by "Bill narrow; rectrices broad; tail coverts long and broad; rictal bristles weak".

Delacour (1942) defined the genus *Tesia* by "very short rectrices [are] hidden by the tail coverts and slightly curved downwards. The bill is long, broad and flattened at its base, with a strong ridge on the upper mandible. The upper parts are dark grey or olive, and the underparts grey, darker or lighter." Delacour separated *Tesia castaneocoronata* off from *Tesia* and placed it in a new genus, *Chorotesia,* based on its longer rectrices, thin, narrow bill, and brighter colour pattern.

White & Bruce (1986) placed *Tesia everetti* in the genus *Urosphena,* while Watson (in Peters 1986) considered *Tesia everetti* a subspecies of *Urosphena subulata* and placed *Tesia castaneocoronata* in the genus *Oligura.*

INVESTIGATIONS

I measured a series of *Tesia, Urosphena* and *Cettia* to see if the measurements and ratios might cluster. Also, tape recordings of all species of *Tesia, Urosphena* and *Cettia* and several species of *Bradypterus* were obtained in the field and compared (the tapes are on deposit at the Library of Natural Sounds in the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology) and field observations of all species of *Tesia, Urosphena* and *Cettia* and several species of *Bradypterus* were made.

RESULTS

(1) The genera *Bradypterus* and *Cettia* can further be separated by: (**A**) *Bradypterus* songs are insect-like and non-musical, while *Cettia* songs are musical, often staccato warbles; and (**B**) *Bradypterus* warblers walk, but *Cettia* warblers hop.

(2) *Cettia pallidipes* belongs with *Horeites* and not *Urosphena* because: (**A**) its tail is too long (note that its wing/tail ratio clusters with *Horeites* and not *Urosphena* (Table 1); (**B**) its rectrices are of normal width (not narrow as in *Urosphena*): (**C**) its pale supercilium is shorter (like *Horeites*) than in *Urosphena*; and (**D**) its song is a staccato warble (Fig. 1) in the 1–4 KHz range (like most other *Horeites*) rather than the high pitched monotones at 8–10 KHz typical of *Urosphena.*

The only character *pallidipes* shares with *Urosphena* is a long narrow bill, which some *Horeites* also have. A better definition for *Horeites* would thus be "tail less than 20 mm shorter than wing length", while *Urosphena* would be "tail more than 20 mm shorter than wing length".

(3) The genus *Tesia,* including *everetti,* is characterised by (**A**) loud staccato songs in the 1–3 KHz range (Fig. 1); (**B**) spending most time in

TABLE 1
Measurements (mm) and ratios of the genera *Tesia, Urosphena* and *Cettia*. (Number of specimens examined in brackets.)

	Wing (mean)	Tail (mean)	Tarsus (mean)	Wing/tail ratio	Wing/Tarsus ratio
Tesia castaneocoronata (10)	47.9	25.4	22.1	1.89	2.17
Tesia olivea (10)	46.5	18.3	22.6	2.54	2.06
Tesia cyaniventer (10)	48.9	17.9	23.7	2.73	2.06
Tesia superciliaris (8)	46.6	16.1	24.5	2.89	1.90
Tesia everetti (8)	51.0	18.7	23.7	2.73	2.15
Urosphena squameiceps (10)	52.9	29.3	18.2	1.81	2.91
Urosphena whiteheadi (5)	50.0	22.4	19.7	2.23	2.54
Urosphena subulata (7)	53.6	25.2	19.6	2.13	2.73
Cettia pallidipes (4)	49.6	39.5	19.6	1.26	2.53
Cettia major (4)	63.6	52.5	24.6	1.21	2.59
Cettia brunnifrons (10)	46.7	41.4	16.8	1.12	2.78
Cettia acanthizoides (10)	51.8	47.8	20.8	1.08	2.49
Cettia diphone cantans (5)	66.2	65.0	24.2	1.02	2.74
Cettia diphone cantans (5)	56.6	54.1	22.3	1.05	2.54
Cettia cetti (10)	61.0	58.6	21.6	1.04	2.82
Cettia fortipes (10)	54.2	50.9	20.5	1.06	2.64
Cettia vulcania everetti (10)	49.6	50.5	20.7	0.98	2.40
Cettia flavolivacea (6)	54.4	54.3	22.0	1.00	2.47

(3) The genus *Tesia*, including *everetti*, is characterised by (**A**) loud staccato songs in the 1–3 KHz range (Fig. 1); (**B**) spending most time in dense undergrowth rather than on the ground (although they are often seen on the ground); (**C**) a curious kind of sidewise movement along branches in the undergrowth when disturbed; (**D**) a wing/tarsus ratio of 1.90–2.17 (Table 1), compared to 2.54–2.91 for *Urosphena* and 2.40–2.82 for *Cettia*; and (**E**) a wing/tail ratio of 1.89–2.89 (Table 1), compared to 1.81–2.23 for *Urosphena* and 0.98–1.26 for *Cettia*.

I have here included *castaneocoronata* with *Tesia* because it conforms in all these aspects to *Tesia*, even though it differs in its longer tail (longer than tail coverts), thin bill and bright colours. Perhaps *Oligura* is best regarded as a subgenus of *Tesia*.

(4) The genus *Urosphena* is characterised by: (**A**) high-pitched monotone songs in the 8–10 KHz range which are difficult or impossible for many people to hear (Fig. 1); (**B**) spending most of the time on the ground (less often in undergrowth than *Tesia*); (**C**) lacking the curious sidewise movement of *Tesia*; (**D**) a wing/tarsus ratio of 2.54–2.91 (Table 1); and (**E**) a wing/tail ratio of 1.81–2.23 (Table 1).

Since *Urosphena* is such a distinct cluster, I prefer to treat it as a genus separate from *Cettia*. While the general behaviour of *Cettia* and *Urosphena* is similar, the songs of these 2 groups are radically different, as is their wing/tail ratio. It should be noted, however, that *C. acanthizoides* and *C. brunnifrons* have elements in their songs which resemble *Urosphena* (especially *acanthizoides*–see Orenstein & Pratt 1983), although at a lower pitch. *C. pallidipes* clearly does not belong to *Urosphena* and is not even particularly close to it.

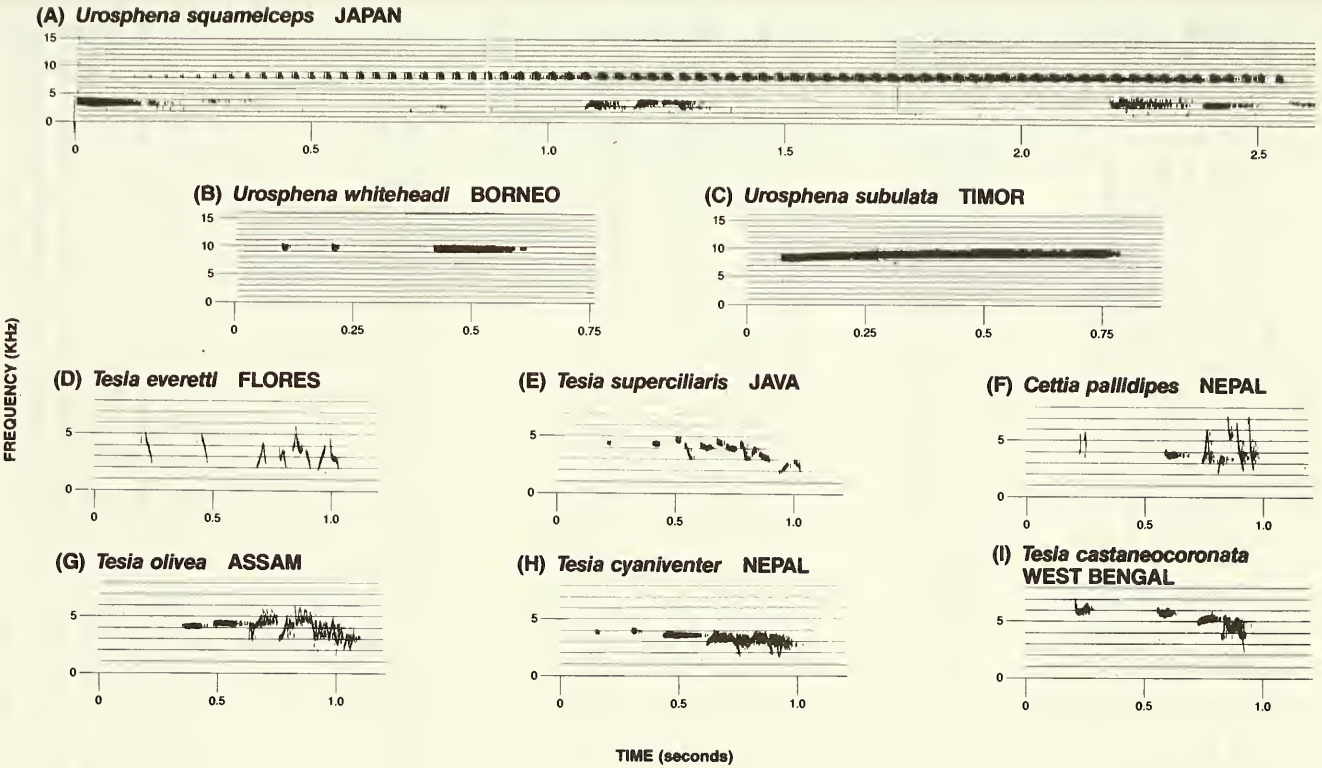

Figure 1. Sonograms of all the species of the genus *Urosphena* and *Tesia*, plus *Cettia pallidipes*. (A smaller scale is used for the genus *Urosphena*.) The 3 songs in the 2–5 KHz range on the *Urosphena squameiceps* sonogram are from *Cyanoptila cyanomelaena*. The entire song of *Urosphena squameiceps* is in the 7.5–9.5 KHz range. Compare (C) *Urosphena subulata* with *Tesia everetti*; and compare (F) *Cettia pallidipes* with (A), (B) and (C), the species of the genus *Urosphena*.

CONCLUSION

The genus *Tesia* consists of 5 species: *castaneocoronata, olivea, cyaniventer, superciliaris* and *everetti*, characterised by very short tails, loud staccato songs in the 1–3 KHz range, long legs, with which they often move through the undergrowth in a curious sidewise motion. The genus *Urosphena* consists of 3 species: *squameiceps, whiteheadi* and *subulata*, characterised by very short tails, high-pitched, barely audible monotonal songs in the 8–10 KHz range, and by spending most of their time on the ground. *Cettia pallidipes* is clearly a member of *Cettia* rather than of *Urosphena*.

Acknowledgements

The Library of Natural Sounds at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology supplied tape-recording equipment and much assistance. The Ornithology Department of the American Museum of Natural History kindly supplied the sonograph, and Bob Solberg assisted by making the sonograms. John McKean and Dennis Yong supplied valuable help in the field. Mr Tsuruhiko Kabaya graciously allowed me the use of his excellent tape-recording of *Urosphena squameiceps*.

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The status of the Rufous-chested Dotterel *Zonibyx modestus* in the Falkland Islands

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Received 6 February 1989

Introduction

The Rufous-chested Dotterel (or Winter Plover) *Zonibyx modestus* is found throughout the Falkland Islands during the austral spring and summer—from the beginning of August until the end of January. Conspicuous in plumage and behaviour, it occurs across a wide range of habitats, from coastal mudflats to hilly plateaux up to c.700 m a.s.l. It breeds commonly amongst the dry heaths (locally called 'hard camp') of extensive sheep-grazed moorland characterised by an admixture of white